

Brought to you by the  
Long Beach Water Department

Is your  
home

WaterWise?



Home Water Audit -- How To Repair Leaks -- Money Saving Offers -- Do It Yourself Checklist -- Helpful Hints -- Conservation Tips - and much more....

Become a Champion of Water Conservation. This home water audit is provided to you by the Long Beach Water Department. Conservation of this precious resource not only helps to ensure water reliability for the future, it's good for the environment and saves you money. We hope you will take a few moments to complete the tests and find out how your home measures up.

## Start at the source....the water meter

Stop using water during this test: turn off the sprinklers, no flushing toilets, no taking showers, no washing clothes, no running the dishwasher, and so on.

Locate your water meter (which is inside a "meter box" typically located next to the curb).

There are different types of meters. You might have one that has a large dial. If so, make a note of where the large dial is pointing. You might also have one that has a blue or red triangle. Either way, make note of where the pointer is and come back in five minutes. If the dial moves during your test, either someone's using water or you have a leak of some kind.

If you have a leak, it's a good idea to find and correct it as soon as possible. You will not only save water and money, you may prevent damage to your home. We suggest some ways to find leaks in the information to follow.

## Check inside....the bathroom

The most common water-wasting problems in bathrooms are leaks and plumbing devices that are *not* water-conserving: showerheads and toilets. Let's look for these water-wasters. Do you have any leaks? Circle them if you do.

Two important devices can be found in a water-conserving bathroom: an ultra-low flush toilet and a low flow shower head. The ultra-low flush toilet (ULFT) uses only 1.6 gallons of water per flush, the low flow shower head uses a maximum of only 2 gallons of water per minute. Both of these items can be purchased at any home store.

(SEE REBATE INFO ON THE NEXT PAGE)

### Faucet



### Showerhead



### Toilet

(a drop of food coloring in the tank will help you to see a leak)



### Bathtub



80%-90% of "unseen" leaks are from toilets

Detecting leaks in your water system is the first step to taking care of a problem that can waste a lot of water and cost you a lot of money. The first step in detecting leaks is at your water meter.

If you have an ULFT, and it doesn't work correctly every time, try holding down the flapper a little longer.



## Landscaping (continued)

4. **Long watering times.** *Even in the summer months, if sprinklers run for more than 10 or 15 minutes, the ground is almost certainly saturated and any additional watering leads to pooling and runoff. Consider reducing your watering times.*

**Install water conserving landscape.** typically requires very little water, greatly standing water which may be used to colorful landscapes include beautiful and other Mediterranean climates, areas of hardscape and non-plant materials

Drought tolerant landscape reduces the risk of creating breed mosquitoes. These plants native to California Consider also incorporating such as decks and pavers.



## How does your home measure up?

Congratulations, this completes the home water audit. You have now identified the major ways in which you can help the environment and reduce your water bill by reducing your water consumption. If you circled any areas, now is a good time to prioritize the steps you can take towards repairing any leaks and achieving a truly Water-Wise home.

**For more information on conservation and landscaping visit our website at [www.lbwater.org](http://www.lbwater.org)**

**Long Beach Water Department**  
1800 E. Wardlow Road  
Long Beach, California 90807  
(562) 570-2300

[www.mwdh20.com](http://www.mwdh20.com)

General Conservation  
information

Water conserving  
landscaping

[www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com)

Visit these sites too...visit these sites too...visit these sites too...

Tour the ideal water  
conserving house

[www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org)

Finally, if you need help completing this water-use survey, please call 562. 570.2390 to schedule an appointment.

## Check outside - landscaping



The environment benefits when we use less water outdoors. A surprising amount of water goes towards outdoor use: about two-thirds of the water consumed at the average home. Reducing this use helps keep the fresh water in the environment and reduces urban runoff polluted with fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, green waste, and other contaminants that hurt the environment.

Fortunately we can greatly reduce our outdoor use by taking several easy steps.

Check your sprinklers for broken or missing heads. You should also check for overspray and misaligned heads.

Do not hose down driveways, patios or sidewalks

When washing cars, use a hose nozzle that allows you to turn off the water while you apply the soap.

**Check sprinkler system operation and maintenance.** If you have automatic sprinklers, please run them once every week at a time of day when you can see:

1. **Leaks, breaks, and missing sprinkler heads.** *About 10% of sprinkler systems have serious leaks or breaks in them or missing sprinkler heads. However, the owner may be unaware of this if they never see the system in operation. Check for breaks, leaks, missing heads; these problems tend to be very obvious once the sprinklers are turned on.*
2. **Mis-aligned sprinkler heads.** *It is common for individual sprinkler heads to turn slightly so they no longer spray just on the landscape; this is especially true where there is a lot of pedestrian traffic and when lawns are being mowed and edged. If the sprinkler heads are mis-aligned, turn them back to where they should be facing.*
3. **Over-spray.** *Does the water spray beyond the landscape area and onto sidewalks, driveways, the street and other non-landscaped areas? If the over-spray comes from just a few sprinkler heads, consider reducing the flow of water from them individually. If all or most of the sprinkler heads are affected, consider turning down the water pressure at the controller, if possible.*





## Check inside....the kitchen

The kitchen is another place in your home where a lot of water is used. Check for leaky faucets. Install aerators! Circle item below if leak is detected.

### Faucet



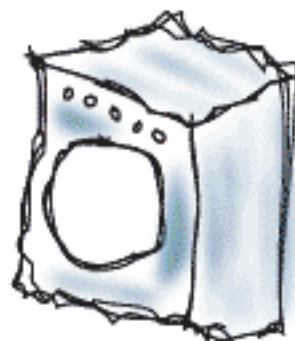
Faucet aerators help conserve water yet are very inexpensive. Consider adding one to each of your faucets.

You can save a lot of water by making sure the dishwasher is full before turning it on.

Did you know that the flavor of tap water improves if you first pour it into a pitcher and refrigerate it for a short period of time (this gets rid of the chlorine smell)

## What else can you do? How about a new washing machine...

Many new models of clothes washers have been engineered to use less than 10 gallons of water per load, a significant savings from the past. So if you are thinking about buying a new clothes washer, please consider purchasing a high efficiency model. Check out our rebate information below.



Rebates Rebates Rebates Rebates Rebates Rebates Rebates Rebates



Did you know that the Long Beach Water Department offers rebates when you purchase water saving devices such as toilets and washing machines? You can receive a rebate of \$75 per ULFT and/or a \$125 rebate for purchasing a High Efficiency Clothes Washer (HECW). Visit us at [www.lbwater.org](http://www.lbwater.org) to find out how you can receive a rebate.

The \$125 rebate for qualified high efficiency clothes washers is only available while funds last. To view the list of qualified models, go to: [www.lbwater.org/conservation/rebate.html](http://www.lbwater.org/conservation/rebate.html) or call 562/435-7744 for more information.

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